

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1-4 and cancels claim 5 without prejudice. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stadius (US Pat. No. 4,635,288). The rejection is respectfully traversed as set forth below for each claim.

Claims 1-4

The present invention, as set forth in claim 1, is directed to a signal switching apparatus. The apparatus includes a plurality of checking signal generating devices that generate checking signals different from each other and a checking signal input device that causes the checking signals generated by said plurality of checking signal generating devices to be selectively input to respective desired mix buses. Each of the checking signals is input to different mix buses. Each of the mix signals mixed on the mix buses is output to different output channels. In this manner, it is easy to discriminatingly check outputs via the respective output channels.

It should be noted that the checking signal input device is a different device than an input signal input device. To emphasize this, applicant has amended claim 1 to recite that the signal switching apparatus includes both the checking signal input device and the input signal input device. Claim 1 recites that the signal switching apparatus comprises “a plurality of checking signal generating devices that generate checking signals different from each other,” “a checking signal input device that causes the checking signals generated by a plurality of checking signal generating devices to be selectively input to respective desired mix buses” and “an input signal input device that causes one input signal to be input to any selected bus of said mix buses”. Other amendments have been made to claim 1 to better claim the invention.

In contrast, Stadius does not disclose a signal switching apparatus having a plurality of checking signal generating devices and a checking signal input device, nor does not disclose the checking signal generating device and the checking signal input device with an input signal input device. Stadius merely discloses an electrical signal mixer having a plurality of input channels 12. Each input channel has a connector for connection with a line leading from a respective signal source, which may be a microphone or other transducer. (See, e.g., column 4, lines 66-68.) Each input channel has an input line 95 leading to an amplifier 96, an equalization circuit 97 and an “inject” socket 98, all of which are standard components for audio mixers. (See, e.g., column 5, lines 38-41 and Fig.2.) By applying decoded signals to the appropriate input line 105 to a switch card 104, an appropriate switch is closed to complete the circuit from one of the lines 100, 101 to the output side of the card. (See, e.g., column 5 line 65-68.)

In the Office Action, the Examiner considers amplifier 96, equalization circuit 97, socket 98 and resistor 99 as meeting the checking signal generating device of claim 1. (See, e.g., Office Action, at page 2.) However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that these devices generate a checking signal as recited in claim 1. In Stadius, amplifier 96, equalization circuit 97, socket 98 and resistor 99 are merely standard components for adjusting an input signal.

Also, in the Office Action, the Examiner considers switch card 104 as meeting the checking signal input device of claim 1. (See, e.g., Office Action, at page 3.) However, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the switch card 104 causes a checking signal to be selectively input to respective desired mix buses as recited in claim 1. In Stadius, switching card 104 is merely a card for selecting a bus to receive an input signal.

Thus, Stadius does not disclose or suggest “the checking signal generating device” and “the checking signal input device.”

Even if one assumes for the sake of argument that devices 96-99 and device 104 meet the recited checking signal generating device and checking signal input device (which Applicant disputes as described above), there is no disclosure or suggestion in Stadius, of an input signal input device as recited. Claim 1 recites the both “the checking signal generating device” and “the

checking signal input device” with “input signal input device,” whereas Stadius at most only disclose “the checking signal generating device” and “the checking signal input device.”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by or obvious in view of Stadius for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Stadius for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Claims 2-4 have been amended to better claim the invention.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is canceled without prejudice.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032041600.

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Respectfully submitted

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